

EDITOR'S NOTE: Somehow, in this age of modern technology, "things" happen. In this case, an article submitted by Box 15 Club in Region 4 was properly received and acknowledged, downloaded, then disappeared! We have no rational explanation, so we'll blame in on gremlins and ghosts, or maybe the production editor.

Our sincerest apologies to Box 15 Club. Please enjoy their submission.

-editor

Box 15 Club

P.O. Box 82510 Columbus, Ohio 43202-0510

Box 15 rehab operations finished the 2008 year by responding to a total of 53 incidents. This included 23 second alarm fires, 2 three alarm fires, 12 self initiated responses to working incidents in extreme heat or cold, 12 special calls, 10 training drills, 3 Haz-Mat / Bomb runs, 1 Alert 3 (Air Crash) and 4 Civic Activities. This provided a total head count of over 3000 members of the Central Ohio Public Safety forces assisted. April 2008 was our "slowest" month with a single response, while August 2008 was our "busiest" month with 8. Over the past year, we continued to be used more & more by all area departments and not just a Columbus Fire resource. It was also a year that our active membership ranks continued to grow.

next county. This was Mutual Aid at its finest!

It all started at about 4:30 PM, on Thursday, January 29 when an automatic alarm was received at Licking County 911 Center, for a possible fire in a warehouse located at 190 Arrowhead Drive near Hebron, Ohio. First arriving companies found heavy smoke conditions, but no visible fire. The large concrete tilt-wall structure was leased to store and distribute insulation that is manufactured about 10 miles away. One possible cause was that the fire may have started during the manufacturing process and went undetected as the insulation was wrapped and packaged. With thousands of rolls of insulation stacked in the warehouse, the fire continued to

Holy Smoke!

By Box 15 President Brett Barber

Here's the situation – a 300,000 sq. ft. warehouse is heavily charged with smoke and your job is to clear it out. Positive Pressure Ventilation – right? Or – how many PPV units would it take to remove more than 6 million cubic feet of smoke?

In this case, borrow only one from a fire department in the



smolder until it had gained considerable headway. No one was working in the warehouse, so the fire went undetected, until the building's alarm system was activated. Due to the size of the facility, a second alarm was requested.



Fire crews from Heath Fire, Millersport, West Licking Joint Fire District, Granville Township and Licking Township Fire Co. were summoned to the scene. Buckeye Lake and Newark fire departments also were summoned. The Hebron Street Department also assisted with a backhoe to distribute tons of smoldering insulation across the parking lot, so fire crews could soak it.

During the labor-intensive and drawn-out process, the need to ventilate the structure became a priority.

Three days prior to the fire, at a meeting of the Fire Chief's Association of Central Ohio, Madison Township (Franklin County) Fire Chief Cliff Mason announced that his department had just received two large PPV units, designed for this exact purpose. Madison Twp is a major warehousing and distribution center, in the Columbus area. Chief Mason is also the Mayor of Hebron. Even though the units had not officially been placed in service yet, Chief Mason authorized his department to respond with one of the trailer-mounted units. Madison Twp. is located about 35 miles from the fire scene. Battalion and Engine 181 responded and were on scene within 40 minutes and remained for several hours. This high

velocity blower did an excellent job of controlling the smoke while firefighters were still removing the burning insulation from the warehouse, as well as clearing the warehouse after all burning material was removed.

According to Hebron Fire Chief

Randy Weekly, "the damage likely has been contained to the rolls of insulation and did not spread to the structure". No fire could be viewed from the outside of the building, although smoke poured from the loading docks. Weekly advised "the strategy would be to contain the heavy smoke in the building to increase visibility, then go in with forklifts to remove the necessary insulation".

At 6:45 PM, at the suggestion of Mayor/Chief Mason, the Incident Commander placed a request with Columbus Fire Dispatch for Box 15. Our Rehab Unit #1 responded with a crew of three and worked in partnership with Licking County's Salvation Army unit and the Buckeye Lake Firebelles – the Ladies Auxiliary from nearby Buckeye Lake. Due to the size of the scene, two rehab sectors were established, both in fresh air areas, but approximately 400 feet apart. Together, more than 150 firefighters and workers were served 2 dozen pizza's, 4 dozen hot dogs, numerous ham sandwiches, more than 10 gallons of coffee and hot chocolate and bottled water.

Central Ohio Equipment Updates
By Box 15 PIO Bob Hess

Columbus Fire has finished updating it's

EMS fleet and now all front line medic units are Navistar/Horton units. Seven more Spartan/Ferrara pampers should have been delivered by the time this issue is published. Ford Explorers are on order to replace an aging fleet of Ford Crown Vics currently

used by the CFD battalion chiefs. Truro Township has received both a 2009 Chevy/Horton and a 2009 Pierce Arrow XT to replace Medic & Engine 161. Norwich Township has placed in service an 2009 Stuphen Engine Rescue at station 81.



New Truro Twp Medic 161. (Photo by R.J. Hess)



(Above) New Truro Twp Engine 161. (Photo by R.J. Hess)

(Below) New Norwich Twp Engine/Rescue 81. (Photo by Sonny J. Lewis)

